

Summer International
Seminar

CIA 2-05.1 FOIA

Watch This Space

“Curiouser and curiouser” are the only words to describe Henry Kissinger’s reactions to Sigmund Diamond’s story in our issue of November 10 linking Kissinger to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Professor Diamond’s story, as readers may recall, was documented with a photocopy of an F.B.I. memorandum describing Kissinger’s 1953 call to the F.B.I. and his opening of mail sent to participants in Harvard’s Summer International Seminar, which he was conducting. Initially, Kissinger told Ken Auletta of *The New York Daily News*, “I said then it was not true”—an odd explanation, given that no one knew about the memorandum outside the F.B.I. until Professor Diamond obtained it this year through a Freedom of Information Act request. A week later, Kissinger’s aide William Hyland issued a protestation by Kissinger that he didn’t remember calling the F.B.I. and, further, that the Bureau couldn’t have released such a document under the F.O.I.A. since the act does not permit release of names to third parties.

Comes now Susan C. Faludi writing in *The Harvard Crimson*, November 16, that Harvard’s Summer International Seminar received substantial grants during the early 1950s from private foundations that were later identified as conduits for Central Intelligence Agency funds.

Was the seminar indeed financed by the C.I.A., and was Kissinger in touch with the C.I.A. as well as the F.B.I.? Is Kissinger implying that Diamond’s document, a part of which was reproduced in *The Nation*, was a forgery? Or is he simply invoking the F.O.I.A. rule (which indeed may have been inadvertently violated by the F.B.I.) to cover up his own complicity? To put the latter question to rest we have filed our own F.O.I.A. request with the F.B.I. for the same memorandum. Watch this space.